

Talking Points for DDI

10 June 1986

Recent Syrian Involvement in Terrorism

Since the attempted bombing of the El Al flight in London on 17 April and the attack against the German-Arab Friendship Union in West Berlin on 29 March, Syrian President Assad has attempted to counter unfavorable publicity by giving interviews to the Western press and making visits to Jordan and Greece. Damascus probably is now reassessing the way it sponsors terrorist operations and we do not expect to see such direct Syrian involvement in a terrorist operation for some time. [REDACTED]

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- o Syria may try to avoid using its embassy personnel as directly as it did in London and East Berlin. [REDACTED]
- o Assad wants to avoid further embarrassment and will attempt to distance Syria from terrorism against Western targets. [REDACTED]
- o Damascus will screen more carefully the freelance terrorists it employs or discontinue their use altogether. Syria may return to using groups more firmly under Syrian control. [REDACTED]

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